

1 **Amendment to the Specification**

2 **In the Specification:**

3 Please amend the specification as follows:

4 On Page 4, the paragraph beginning at line 29 should be replaced with the following.

5
6 Yet another aspect of the present invention is directed to a method for enabling visual
7 evaluation of atherosclerotic plaque at a site in a patient. This method is similar to the method noted
8 above, but in addition, repeats all of the steps for each of a plurality of transverse slices at the site
9 being imaged. The plurality of transverse slices is within planes that are generally transverse relative
10 to the plurality of slices initially imaged to provide a reference when acquiring the signals for
11 imaging the transverse slices. In addition, the method includes the step of displaying selected
12 transverse slices of the site, so that any atherosclerotic plaque formation in an artery of the patient at
13 the site is clearly visible. A contribution due to flowing blood in each transverse slice is thus
14 suppressed to more clearly visually display any atherosclerotic plaque formation in an artery at the
15 site.

16
17 Please amend the specification as follows:

18 On Page 5, the paragraph beginning at line 5 should be replaced with the following.

19
20 Still another aspect of the invention pertains to a method for fast black-blood angiography,
21 wherein the steps described above are used to acquire a plurality of images corresponding to a
22 plurality of slices that are disposed in an oblique plane along the longitudinal direction of a blood
23 vessel. Such images depict fragments of blood vessels as being consistently dark compared to
24 surrounding tissues and any pathologic lesions inside the vessels such as the atherosclerotic plaque or
25 the thrombus. A plurality of oblique black-blood images is then processed by multi-planar
26 reformation or minimal intensity projection in order to enable the vascular anatomy to be clearly
27 visible visible.